

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A process for the production of granules containing filamentous fungi of the Moniliales family comprising the steps of:
selecting and growing filamentous fungi of the Moniliales family in a suitable culture medium for a predetermined amount of time,
mixing said culture medium, after said predetermined time, with a gelling agent and at least one carrier material, so as to obtain a mixture,
subjecting said mixture to gelling through drop by drop contact, with a solution containing a calcium salt thus obtaining gelled granules containing said filamentous fungi, and
drying said gelled granules to a moisture content of 13-18%,
wherein said culture medium for filamentous fungi comprises at least one carbon source selected from the group consisting of molasses, malt extract and sucrose, and at least one organic nitrogen source selected from the group consisting of yeast extract and corn steep liquor.
2. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said gelling step is carried out by adding said mixture, drop by drop, into said solution containing a calcium salt.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein said at least one carbon source constitutes between 70 and 85% by weight of the dry weight of the culture medium and said at least one organic nitrogen source constitutes between 15 and 30% by weight of the dry weight of the culture medium.

5. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein said culture medium further comprises a mineral nitrogen source.

6. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~[[4]]~~5, wherein said mineral nitrogen source is contained in an amount not greater than 10% by weight of the dry weight of the culture medium.

7. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the gelling agent consists of a solution containing between 1 and 2% by weight of sodium alginate.

8. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 7, wherein said sodium alginate solution is added to the culture medium of the filamentous fungus according to a culture medium/alginate solution volume ratio of between 40:60 and 60:40.

9. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said carrier material is selected from the group consisting of diatom earth, flours, and sugars, and combinations thereof.

10. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein said filamentous fungi are of *Arthrotrrys conoides* Dreschsler and said carrier material comprises at least cornflour.

11. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the carrier material is added to the sodium alginate solution in percentages ranging between 6% and 22% by weight of the weight of the solution.

12. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the solution containing a calcium salt is an aqueous calcium chloride or calcium gluconate solution having a concentration of 0.2-0.3 M.

13. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the dried granules have an average diameter of between 1 and 3 mm.
14. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 6, wherein said mineral nitrogen source is contained in an amount between 5 and 8% by weight of the dry weight of the culture medium.
15. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein said flours include cornflour.
16. (New) The process according to claim 9, wherein said carrier material comprises cornflour and sucrose.
17. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the produced granules are suitable for use as phytosanitary agents for use in soil.